

Christmas Characters – Mary and Joseph

Christmas Characters Series (CC-02)

December 19, 2021

- Zechariah – by inspiration of the Holy Spirit...Luke 1:78-79

Angel Gabriel Appearance to Mary – Luke 1:26-38

- Greetings favored woman – a special recipient of God's grace
- You will conceive and give birth
- You will name him Jesus – God saves
- Son of the Most High – Son of God
- How can this happen? I am a virgin.
- The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will overshadow you
- So the baby born will be holy
- Nothing is impossible with God
- Mary's response
 - I am the Lord's servant
 - May everything you have said about me come true
 - Willing to suffer the shame
 - Deuteronomy 22:23-24
- V.45 Blessed because you believed the Lord would do what he said
- Mary's Song – the Magnificat – Latin translation for Magnify
 - Insight – special understanding of what God was doing
 - Understanding of the Character of God – power, mercy, holiness
 - Turning the ways of the world on their head

Joseph – Matthew 1

- Engaged – considered husband and wife (except for ceremony and consummation)
- Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Decided to break engagement quietly - a good man
- Willing to suffer the shame
- Angel Appearance in a dream
 - Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife

- The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit – awareness of spiritual unseen realm
- A son
- Name him Jesus – he will save people from their sins
- He did as the angel instructed him

- Bethlehem – Joseph's home town

- Micah 5:2
- Bethlehem means - House of Bread - John 6:35

Character qualities of Mary and Joseph

- Knowledge of God and the scriptures
- Surrendered
- Obedient
- Full of faith and faithful

Virgin Conception and Birth – What is your view?

- Much of the church has embraced a natural worldview rather than the Biblical worldview
- Virgin can mean young girl – meaning maybe she did have sexual relations, but she was young. Pregnancy a result of natural means
- The virgin birth is just a marginal issue

Virgin Birth is a Central Issue

- Without a virgin conception – there is no possibility for salvation
- Romans 5:12
- John 1:29
- Luke 1:34-35
- John 1:1-14
 - The Word was God
 - His life brought light to everyone
 - God sent John to tell about the light
 - The world and even his own people rejected him
 - All who believe become the children of God
 - The Word became human and made his home with us
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT2) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.